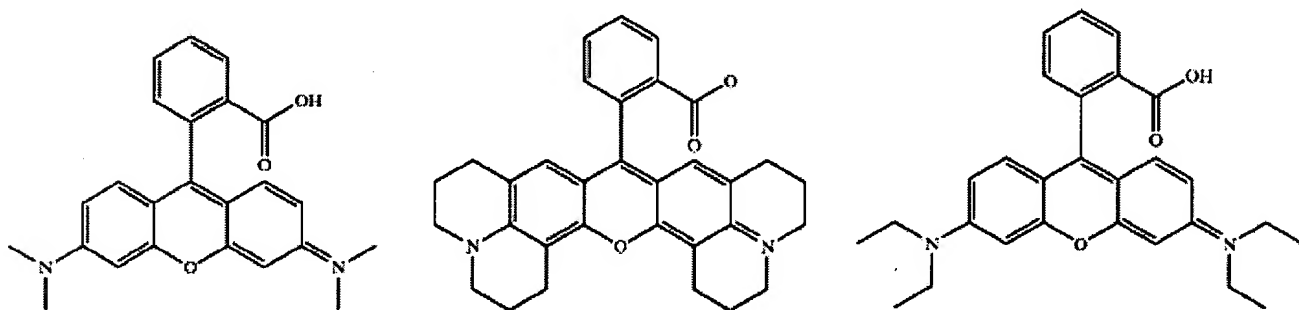


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**  
**PURSUANT TO REVISED 37 CFR § 1.121**

The following is a listing of claims that replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

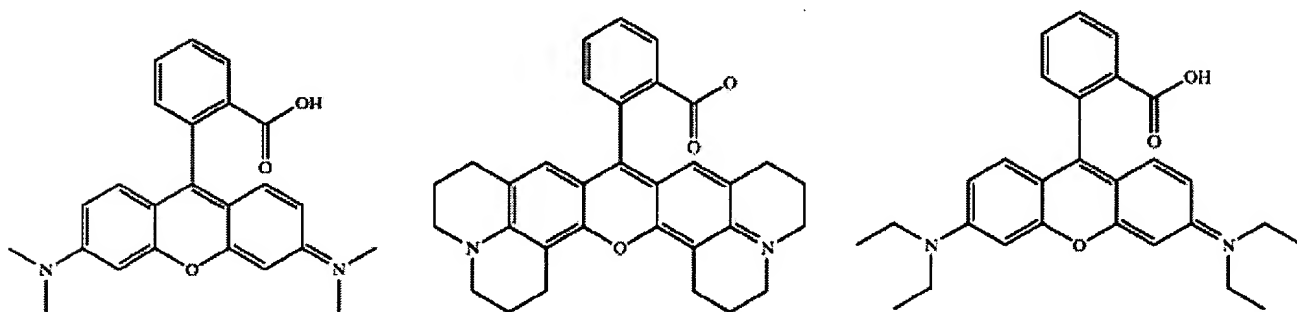
1. (Currently amended) A method of labeling oligonucleotides, comprising:
  - a) providing:
    - i) a solid support-bound oligonucleotide comprising an amino group;
    - ii) a bifunctional linker arm comprising a hydrocarbon chain, a protected secondary amine, and a hydroxyl group; and
    - iii) an *in situ* unactivated label selected from the group consisting of:



- b) reacting said solid support-bound oligonucleotide with said bifunctional linker arm to produce a support-bound, linker-oligonucleotide;
  - c) reacting said *in situ* unactivated label to create an *in situ* activated label; and
  - d) reacting said support-bound linker-oligonucleotide with said activated label to produce a labeled support-bound protected oligonucleotide.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) A method of labeling oligonucleotides, comprising:

- a) providing:
  - i) a solid support-bound oligonucleotide comprising an amino group;
  - ii) a bifunctional linker arm comprising a hydrocarbon chain, a protected secondary amine, and a hydroxyl group; and
  - iii) an *in situ* unactivated label selected from the group consisting of:



- b) reacting said solid support-bound oligonucleotide with said bifunctional linker arm to produce a support-bound, linker-oligonucleotide;
  - c) reacting said *in situ* unactivated label to create an *in situ* activated label;
  - d) deprotecting the amino group of said support-bound, protected linker-oligonucleotide to produce a support-bound deprotected linker-oligonucleotide, and;
  - e) reacting said support-bound deprotected linker-oligonucleotide with said activated label to produce a labeled support-bound protected oligonucleotide.